

**LINCOLN-SUDBURY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

7:30 p.m. Public Session

Conference Room B

Present: Nancy Marshall, Chair, Radha Gargeya, Vice-Chair, Kevin Matthews, Gerald Quirk and Elena Kleifges. Patty Mostue was absent.

Also Present: Scott Carpenter, Superintendent/Principal; Michael Connelly, Director of Finance & Operations; Lisa Weiss, TA Representative; Julia Thomas, Student Senate Representative; Sue Pardus, FOLSS; Liz Darley, LSPO; Bob Jacobson, Jim Rao, Sudbury FinCom; and Laura Sander, Lincoln FinCom.

Agenda Enclosures/Handouts

Unapproved Minutes for February 12 and 26, 2013

Call to Order

Nancy Marshall called the Public Meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Welcome

Nancy Marshall requested a motion to approve the minutes of February 12 and 26, 2013. Patty Mostue moved to approve the minutes of February 12, 2013 and Elena Kleifges seconded the motion. All were in favor. Radha Gargeya moved to approve the minutes from February 26, 2013 and Elena Kleifges seconded the motion. Patty Mostue abstained from approving the minutes of February 26 because she did not attend the meeting. All other members were in favor of approving the minutes.

Presentation

Scott Carpenter presented the Annual Report for Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School. The report illustrates the performance of the high school in all areas and compares L-S to peer community high schools such as Acton-Boxborough, Bedford, Concord-Carlisle, Lexington, Newton, Wayland and Weston. The report also compares

students from Lincoln Public Schools and Sudbury Public Schools and how they fare at the high school. Data sources are noted at the bottom of each slide.

Next year there will be an increase in enrollment at L-S of 52 students from an unusually large 8th grade cohort. Enrollment will plateau for four years and then begin to decline in the 2017-2018 school year. The percentage of Lincoln students at L-S is 13.6%. Sudbury's percentage of students is 79.7%. METCO contributes 5.7% of L-S students and children of staff account for 1%. These percentages have been constant for the past 10 years.

Significantly more Lincoln students than Sudbury students are seeking private school education. Four times more students from Lincoln attend private school. Peak of Lincoln enrollment occurred just after the new high school opened. When we began to lay off teachers, Lincoln enrollment dropped. Patty Mostue agreed that class size is a priority for Lincoln parents.

Among our peer school districts, Lincoln Public has the highest per pupil expense. Lincoln-Sudbury falls in the middle of the range among our peer districts with Concord-Carlisle per pupil spending the highest among regional schools.

Lincoln-Sudbury graduates 100% of students who have enrolled in college within 5 years and 94% of our students enroll in 4-year colleges. L-S 4-year and 2-year college rates are very high and put LS among the elite few schools in the State of Massachusetts.

Student/Teacher ratios are based on state data. LS has higher student/teacher ratios than most schools. Lincoln Public has the lowest student/teacher ratio and Sudbury has a student/teacher ratio that is slightly higher than LS. Gerald Quirk inquired what our student/teacher ratio would be if the 18 teachers reduced during the past 5 years were still in place. Scott responded that the student/teacher ratio would then be similar to Weston High School. Using state data, LS and Sudbury Public class sizes are the two highest among our peer districts and feeder schools.

Class sizes in academic subjects 2012-2013 range from 10 to 40. The average median class size is 24. The number of classes whose size is above 24 has doubled during the past 13 years. Scott added that what is not seen in this statistic is the number of lower level classes that should be closer to 15 or 18 students/class are now at 24 students/class.

Kevin Matthews pointed out that the School Committee need to have conversations with the Town of Sudbury regarding the lack of diversity in Sudbury's tax base. Sudbury is 93% residential and has more children per household than other towns and therefore has fewer tax dollars. The Town of Sudbury has made decisions reflecting how land is used and that has affected the schools.

Statistics from the English MCAS and Math MCAS show that students have continued show improvement in exam scores at a time when the district has been strained financially. This speaks to the commitment of teachers here and in our K8 schools. Student scores at LS have improved markedly from the proficient to the advanced range in English, Math and Science. LS ranks second in English scores and third in Math among our peer district schools.

In terms of ACT and SAT scores, the outcomes between the Lincoln students and the Sudbury students are very similar. LS students perform 3 to 4 times better than other students nationwide. However, LS has lower SAT scores relative to our peer communities which stands in contrast to MCAS testing. LS is within the top two for MCAS but the bottom two for SAT scores. Kevin Matthews questioned if AP courses prepared students better for SAT scores, is there a relationship there. Gerald Quirk queried how one could control for preparatory classes and tutoring in the towns that perform better on the SATs.

Scott Carpenter reported that LS and Concord-Carlisle have few AP classes but a full complement of rigorous humanities courses. Fifteen percent of LS students took at least one AP exam. Weston and Lexington have double that number of students taking an AP exam. LS ranked 7th out of 11 peer schools in AP exam performance.

In terms of preparedness for high school, the median GPA for Lincoln or Sudbury 9th grade students through the 12th grade is the same. The

academic outcome for students from Lincoln and students from Sudbury is the same.

Lincoln-Sudbury and Sudbury Public Schools have the least high needs students. Lincoln has high population of high needs students because their METCO population is higher. This is a factor to keep in mind when discussing test scores. Other schools have a higher percentage of high needs students than we do.

Sudbury Public Schools have a high percentage of students on educational plans coming to LS. The state does not collect data on 504's, a high needs population that the state does not track at all because it is not considered a disability that merits special education but 504 students do receive accommodations.

Our out-of-district placements have risen appreciably in the last few years. There is a correlation between increased class sizes and the number of parents seeking services out-of-district. Our ability to keep students in district is compromised when our class size rises.

The METCO program is helping students move onto college at rates far higher than students statewide and students attending Boston Public Schools. However, there is a significant achievement gap between resident students and METCO students. The GPA's of resident students is B+, Boston students average GPA's are B-.

The average LS senior applies to 8.9 colleges which is much higher than typical New England student. Our counselors do good job counseling families on sensible applications but parents are encouraging students to apply to more reach schools.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Recognitions

Scott Carpenter commended Leslie Kmiec who enrolled in a program through the National Library Association that distributes free books. The METCO program will receive 26 copies of *The Alchemist* by Paul Coelho that will be given to the students at graduation.

SERF Grants were awarded to Anita Honkonen for an Earthquake Monitoring Device and to Seth Weiss to support development of Quizzer, a web-based assessment tool to develop quizzes through our IPASS system. The Quizzer would provide feedback on tests.

The National Ocean Science Bowl team came in second at a regional tournament held on March 7th at MIT. The LS team came in second among 16 teams.

Nancy Errico and Leslie Belcher coordinated a Professional Development Day. Ten different workshops were presented by LS teachers.

Student Representative

Julia Thomas reported that the Student Senate enjoyed carrying out Teacher Appreciation Day. The students took a photo of themselves holding a sign expressing their appreciation for the teachers, particular notes of appreciation were placed in teachers' mailboxes and there were edible treats for the teachers in the morning.

TA Report

Lisa Weiss reported that the teachers greatly appreciated the Teacher Appreciation Week sponsored by the Student Senate. The teachers hope that there will be no further snow days.

METCO Representative Report – Representative did not attend meeting.

Superintendent Report – see **Presentation**

Liaison Report

Gerald Quirk and Nancy Marshall met with the Park and Recreation departments of both Lincoln and Sudbury. After Lincoln Town Meeting they plan to restructure the agreement between the towns for use of the Athletic fields and Community Resources. It would be desirable for the children of both towns to avail themselves of field use for recreation. A neutral cost scenario for LSRHS is most desirable. The Lincoln CPC is

very supportive of incorporating the funding of athletic facilities in their budget planning.

Chair Report

Scott Carpenter and Radha Gargeya have been asked to speak at the LSPO Gala on March 23rd. The Chairwoman extended her thanks to the LSPO for engaging in a significant effort to support technology at the high school.

Nancy Marshall extended her thanks to Radha Gargeya and Gerald Quirk for their hard work preparing presentations for the finance committees of both towns regarding technology. Timing remains an issue for LS in terms of preparing for the new school year. Lincoln Town Meeting will be held on March 23rd beginning at 9:30am in Donaldson Auditorium.

Gifts

The School Committee voted to accept a Gift of \$50,000 from the Friends of LS Softball to pay for the design of the softball field. Kevin Matthews moved that the School Committee accept the gift and Gerald Quirk seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sub-Committee Reports

The Technology Group met and agreed that LS was faced with using a technological infrastructure that is basically 15 years old. From 1985-1996, LS was leading other districts in technology. From 1996 to 2001, LS was on par with our peer districts. In 2004, an investment of \$1.2 million for our technology in the new building improved our technological picture. However, from 2007 to 2010 LS couldn't keep pace as technology was no longer funded annually, and by 2011-2013 LS had fallen behind our peer districts.

It is imperative that LS renovate the existing network infrastructure so that an upgrade to critical servers will be possible. This is a \$600K investment that will provide a platform for keeping pace with technological advances. From this point forward, we must think of technology as an integral part of our budget. All technological equipment needs to be upgraded every 5-6 years.

Two vendors have submitted proposals to upgrade our technological infrastructure. A working group has been formed which includes Nancy Errico, Gerald Quirk, Radha Gargeya, Michael Connelly, Scott Carpenter, the Sudbury CIPC, Lincoln CPC and the FinComs of both communities. Jim Rao of the Sudbury FinCom suggested that the \$600K be addressed as a capital exclusion. He also suggested that a Special Town Meeting be called in the Fall to address capital needs. With that in mind, our committee will endeavor to wrap up the technology initiative so that our recommendations will be ready for the special town meeting in the Fall.

An annual budget for maintenance and upgrades to technology is necessary. The LSPO gala funds will address some immediate needs. Another effort that is necessary is outreach into the communities of Lincoln and Sudbury, to the middle school PTO's and the elementary school PTO's to remind them of the importance of up-to-date technology for the high schools. Our effort is to prepare for 2018, not just 2014.

Information and Discussion

Michael Connelly submitted a Budget Update Memo for FY14. Laura Sander, Lincoln FinCom, asked what the budget would look like without reapportionment. Michael Connelly acknowledged that working with the 2.7% guideline recommended by the Sudbury FinCom and including the assessment calculation based on municipal growth factor would shift more of the burden to the Town of Sudbury. Lost revenue reapportionment and increased student enrollment in FY14 will result in using more of the ED&E budget than anticipated. The second page of the memo updates the LS ED&E account with no reapportionment. A Level funded budget would require use of \$606K from the ED&E account that is currently \$920K. Michael Connelly further stated that spending for OPEB would begin in mid FY14 and that growing the ED&E balance would be delayed until FY15.

Laura Sander asked Michael Connelly to address the difference in assessment calculations. Michael Connelly said that the calculations based on interpretations of Chapter 70 would be addressed at the Lincoln Town Meeting. Scott Carpenter added that the statutory method of assessment for Lincoln and Sudbury was trending in ways that were consistently favorable to Lincoln for FY14. Radha Gargeya replied that with two years of statutory experience, the budget planning would be

more reliable in FY15. Jim Rao stated that the Town of Sudbury would need to have frank conversations for FY15. Scott Carpenter pointed out that next year Sudbury Public would account for 62% of students and LS would account for 38%. Examination of what it costs to run a high school will need to be addressed. In particular, the structural factors that need to be addressed must be highlighted in the budget discussions. Jim Rao brought up the question of whether a single K-12 school system might be more efficient in terms of flow of funds.

Lisa Weiss and Sandy Crawford are working on the new evaluation process by inputting data and working with the evaluation language. They expect to have the process on line in September and 50% of the population will begin on schedule. They will present to the School Committee when they are ready to begin.

Other Business

Calendar of Events

LSPO Gala	March 23 rd , 2013
Lincoln Town Meeting	March 23 rd , 2013
Strategic Planning Com.	April 4, 2013
School Committee Meeting	April 9, 2013

Patty Mostue made a motion to NOT adjourn to executive session. Elena Kleifges seconded the motion. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 pm.

Adjourned at 10:13 PM